

VA Benefits

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

Policy: 1000.0015

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A child who is a dependent of a deceased, disabled, or retired veteran may be eligible for VA benefits. For a child in placement the Department acts as representative payee of the benefits, applying the benefits to the cost of care.

A disabled "helpless" child of a veteran may continue to receive benefits past the age of eighteen (18) if he/she has a physical and/or mental incapacity and is incapable of self-support.

A child of a deceased veteran (killed or disabled in action), who is enrolled in an approved college or university, may be eligible for a Veterans Administration stipend for college expenses until age twenty-three (23).

Related Procedures

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Application for Dependent's VA Benefits

Procedure From Policy 1000.0015: VA Benefits

- A. If a child is considered eligible for VA benefits as the dependent of a deceased, disabled, or retired veteran, the worker contacts the Federal Benefits and Programs Office with:
 - 1. The child's name.
 - 2. The child's Social Security number .
 - 3. The Veteran's Serial Number of the parent who is the service veteran
- B. The Federal Benefits and Programs Office forwards the appropriate material to the Veterans Administration which completes the application and determines eligibility.

Transfer of Payments

Procedure From Policy 1000.0015: VA Benefits

- A. When a child enters placement, the worker determines if the parent is receiving VA benefits on behalf of the child. If so, the worker obtains and records the VA claim numbers.
- B.. The claim number is forwarded to the Federal Benefits and Programs Office. The Federal Benefits and Programs Office sends a letter to the Veterans Administration Adjudication Officer requesting change of payee, transferring the payments to the Department. The Veterans Administration contacts the Federal Benefits and Programs Office to obtain further identifying information, such as child's school attendance, school grade, and health status. The Federal Benefits and programs Office obtains this information from the worker.
- C. When a child returns home from placement, the transaction is routed through the Federal Benefits and Programs Office, which forwards a letter to the Veterans Administration to advise that the child is no longer in placement and to transfer the payment to the parent.

VA Benefits for Higher Education

Procedure From Policy 1000.0015: VA Benefits

When a child plans to attend college, a Social Attendance Form, #VA 21-674, is completed by the worker and returned to the Federal Benefits and Programs Office.

Disabled Child Benefits

Procedure From Policy 1000.0015: VA Benefits

A disabled child of a veteran can continue to receive benefits beyond his/her eighteenth (18) birthday. The worker must submit documentation of the child's physical and/or mental disability to the Federal Benefits and Programs Office three (3) months prior to the child's eighteenth (18) birthday. The Federal Benefits and Programs Office forwards the documentation of disability to the Veteran's Administration for a determination of continued eligibility.

The Reimbursement of Benefits

Procedure From Policy 1000.0015: VA Benefits

- A. At the time of placement of the VA eligible child, the primary service worker shall have the parents'/guardians' sign a Parental Authorization for Reimbursement of Benefits. This form will be filed in the case record. Upon the child's return home, this form will enable the Department to collect VA payments retroactive to the time of the child's placement.
- B. The primary service worker will notify the Federal Benefits and Programs Unit of the child's return home at the appropriate time and forward a copy of the signed Parental Authorization for Reimbursement of Benefits to the Federal Benefits and Programs Unit.